

By Lee Haines

The historic tapestry of Duxbury, woven in endless patterns of colorful fact since our country's earliest beginnings, is once again captured in the new 1976 social calendar and date book released last week by The Community Garden Club of Duxbury. This year's edition, entitled "Our Heritage," photographically captures 12 scenes of Duxbury's treasured past, artistically heightened and shaded by nature's monthly seasonal whims.

The camera's lens pinpoints bygone times, places and things in today's world. The indelible print of history quietly takes over, telling visual tales of Duxbury regarding a precious moment, a hallowed hour, a certain time from long ago.

January's picture is the authentic early furnishing of the northwest bedroom of the Bradford house on Tremont St. Built by Captain Gershom Bradford in 1808, the house was never out of the Bradford family's ownership until it was given to The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society in 1968. The starkness of winter frames the February picture of the Hunt house which was the first home built in Duxbury and completed in 1641, a year after the Hunt family arrived.

A full, bright moon filtering lights through the mist catches the harbormaster's post house, some boats beyond, and a hushed shimmer of water in March's picture, "Town Landing." Melting puddles and night shadows envelope the basin where the Marine Railway has serviced local and visiting vessels for many years.

## HISTORICAL FOOTNOTES OF THE 1976 CALENDAR



The club's calendar cover, here reproduced, is a picture of the Myles Standish Monument which was taken by James Petersen. Historically, the stones used in the arch of the doorway were sent from all of the New England states and at the monuments dedication, the keystone was presented by then President Ulysses S. Grant.



school as his private residence and gleaning great pleasure from his many horticultural endeavors.

Heralding springtime and the month of May, a distant backdrop of trees in full leaf edge a picture of the marshes. In the beginning, these marshes were highly valued as a source of salt hay in the feeding of cattle. Although it gave cows little substantial food, the producing of milk did keep them from starving through the winter months in those first years.

Pilgrim Church, with its steeple reaching toward a bright June sky, enhances the reverent beauty of an old New England church, built in 1844. Continuing to July, with the camera angled

from the ground on a hot morning, a fascinating study of the new Town Offices, (dedicated this past 4th of July), the Town House, (more recently known as Old Town Hall) and The First Parish Church give charming emphasis to this stunning complex. Part-ridge Academy, formerly on the sight of the present new edifice, was built in the 1840's at the time the other 2 were completed. The 3 then represented religion, government and education in Duxbury.

Lingering boats in Blue Fish River and the sea beyond hail August and fall in a poetic scene of water, land and marsh. Now a favorite "swimmin' hole" for the

young, it was a bustling area with a large mill in the old ship-building days where sailing vessels were built, launched and moored.

Plumfield Lane, which was originally a path leading down to a very ancient shipyard, has a fence at its Washington St. entrance made in the shape of hearts with heart cutouts. Its unusual detail is caught midst a withering vine which is shedding its leaves as September advances. Cranberry bogs, flooded in the last days of the harvest in order to salvage the berries left after the first frost, form symmetrical patterns of October lights and shadows in the late afternoon. A water pipe zigzags across the picture throwing pools of water as the cranberries come to the surface.

Winds of the first bitter days of November toss swirling leaves about Jonathan Alden's grave-stone where an American flag and some weary chrysanthemums, limp from the cold, are at the marker's base. Born in Duxbury and the son of John Alden, he died in 1767 and was simply buried in the small graveyard on Chestnut St. at Pilgrim Byway.

As the closing scene in the calendar, the frigid days of December are revealed in the stark of black and white in bold contrast. Bright light floods Sweetser's General Store and other buildings fronting Washington St. at Snug Harbor in dark night, heightening the simple charm of the old structure built some 150 years ago. In its beginning, exotic foods and merchandise brought on the clipper ships from the West Indies were enchanting extras in the life of Duxbury families.

The pictures chosen this year are the work of Kenneth Witham, Lansford Bouthillier, Joan Hacker as well as James Petersen. Young and old alike are encouraged to prime their cameras as of now and start taking pictures that may be entered in next year's club calendar photographic contest. If there are any questions in regard to starting your contest portfolio, call Mrs. Richard Cotton (834-4995).

From the summer kitchen window of the King Caesar House, the formal gardens beyond pick up the first promise of spring in April's picture. Not a part of the original grounds, these gardens were developed by Frederick Knapp after he bought the house around 1879 to be used as a private boys' school. The school later transferred to the then new Old Sailors' Home, Knapp maintaining the former